

# ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize 10 one-minutes on either side.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO PORTER GOSS ON BECOMING NEW CIA DI- RECTOR

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well today to congratulate our Florida colleague and great friend, PORTER GOSS, on becoming the new director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

PORTER is one of the most decent, kind, humble men in this building, and his task before him is enormous. Seventy-seven Senators, including our own Florida Senators BOB GRAHAM and BILL NELSON, courageously supported the man who we know is such a decent human being, who will use his utmost ability to protect and defend the people of the United States.

PORTER GOSS and his wife Mariel have been solid citizens, great Floridians and now the Nation will know the kind of dedication he has shown to the pursuit of making America safe.

We are proud of you, PORTER. We are standing by you, and we know, at the end of your tenure here in Congress, Floridians salute you and Americans will get to know a great, great humanitarian, a great leader, and a terrific Central Intelligence Director.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should avoid improper references to the Senate.

## PARTNERSHIP WITH AMERICA'S FUTURE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for the last 4 years, Texas has seen our manufacturing economy decline, entire industries virtually disappear, jobs outsourced abroad and communities across the State struggle against the tide to balance their budgets and maintain viability.

All families in Texas have seen their share of the national debt increase by \$36,536.

Republicans have tried to cut back on support for local police officers, supporting proposals that would slash funding for the COPS program which has put 5,937 police officers on the streets in Texas. They have drained the Superfund program, despite the 30 sites that endanger the health of families in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is time to wake up and address the most important problems that we face.

Let us come together on a new economic plan for America. Working together, our New Partnership for America's Future will provide prosperity, national security, fairness, opportunity, community and accountability to the families of Texas.

## MISERY INDEX LOW; PROSPERITY INDEX HIGH

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for years, the Misery Index has measured the good or bad impact of the economy on everyday Americans. The Misery Index is the combination of the unemployment rate and the inflation rate.

President George Bush has the lowest Misery Index of any President seeking re-election in 30 years. The Misery Index under President Bush is only 7.3 percent. Over 1.7 million jobs have been created just in the last year. President Bush's initiatives have given Americans economic growth and a freer and more secure country.

Mr. Speaker, given President Bush's good record on the economy, maybe we should give him credit for a prosperity index.

## NEW BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Democrats unveiled a new blueprint for the future, our New Partnership for America's Future, a plan that will move our Nation in the right direction by promoting prosperity, national security, fairness and opportunity, as well as supporting our communities and demanding accountability.

I want to focus today on national security. Nevada has the highest percentage of National Guard troops deployed in Iraq, 40 percent of Nevada's National Guard. Over 1,500 Nevada National Guard and Reserve troops have been deployed overseas. These brave men and women are our next generation of veterans.

Republicans have not kept their promises to our current veterans, and I have no confidence that we will be able to do any better for these new veterans. Republicans refuse to end the Disabled Veterans Tax. Instead, they passed a plan that fails to cover over 5,000 disabled veterans in Nevada.

Democrats will keep our promises to our veterans and will keep America safe with a strong military, sound diplomacy, resources for our first responders and heightened security for our ports.

## SUCCESS IN IRAQ

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this morning, the House heard from the prime minister of Iraq, Dr. Allawi, and I think it is important to come and underscore some of the things that he told us this morning. The overriding message that Dr. Allawi gave this House is we are succeeding in the country of Iraq.

He said he had three messages for America. He first wanted to say thank you. He secondly pointed out that the world at large was better off because of the action taken by the United States of America. And finally, he wanted the world to know that they would get it right on the ground in Iraq.

He talked about the cost of freedom. In fact, he reminded us of what Harry Truman said a couple of generations ago, "If you want peace, you better be prepared to fight for it."

He told us that they have mourned, as we have mourned here at home.

Iraq is the battleground for those who oppose freedom. It is their last chance, and they will not succeed.

He did warn us that defeatism contributes to more violence on the ground in Iraq, and I think that is a message that we all can take home with us and remember these 40 days remaining before the election.

## NATIONAL SALES TAX PROPOSAL JUST ANOTHER TAX CUT FOR THE RICH

(Mr. SANDLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, the new minority report released today by the Committee on Ways and Means shows that the latest unfair tax scheme proposed by the majority will be one of the largest tax increases on working families in American history.

The new proposed national sales tax will result in the wealthiest 1 percent of American taxpayers receiving a \$225,000 tax break per year, while working families will see an average yearly tax increase of \$3,200 per year. This new national sales tax will punish the middle class and working families every single day.

Mr. Speaker, \$100 of groceries will cost \$130. A \$20,000 pickup will be \$26,000. Need a new TV? Mark it up 30 percent. And health care, a visit to the doctor for your children, or how about prescription drugs? Add 30 percent, Mr. Speaker.

The truth is, the new national sales tax proposal is just another scheme to give tax cuts to those that ship our jobs overseas, leaving the rest of us stuck with a bill and stuck with a new and unwelcome tax.